



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ORGANIZED

Ickes Names Gabrielson Director
of New Service

A new Federal agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, became a legal entity today, operating in every State in the Union, Alaska and Territorial Possessions, and in inland waters and the oceans surrounding the United States.

Created with the approval of the Congress under the President's reorganization plan, the new agency is a part of the Department of the Interior. It will consolidate the work of the old Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries, which cease to exist.

Creation of the new agency will mark another important step forward in consolidating Federal conservation activities in the Department of the Interior, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said. The Bureau of Biological Survey, formerly was in the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries was formerly in the Department of Commerce. Both were transferred to the Department of the Interior under reorganization plans last year. The new Fish and Wildlife Service comes into being at this time as the result of expiration of 60 days since the President sent Reorganization Plan No. III creating the consolidated agency to the Congress.

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, will be director of the new Service, Secretary Ickes announced. Charles E. Jackson, Acting Commissioner of Fisheries, and W. C. Henderson, Associate Chief of the Biological Survey will be Assistant Directors. Nearly 2,000 Federal workers throughout the country will constitute the staff of the agency, Secretary Ickes said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary Ickes said, will place the two former bureaus under a coordinated administration. It is expected that with only a few exceptions the lines of work will be carried on by the already existing Divisions of the Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries.

Both these agencies, Secretary Ickes pointed out, dealt with the important renewable national resources composed of living wild creatures. Many of the problems in connection with both research and action policies and programs were similar within the two agencies. The solution of these problems in one agency also in many instances affected the resources administered by the other. In such a case the advantages of coordinated administration are obvious, he said. The experience gained by both bureaus during more than half a century will be available in every activity of the new Service for advancing a more effective program to restore and conserve the Nation's wildlife resources.

Secretary Ickes also pointed out advantages to States and the public in having only one Federal wildlife agency to deal with in this field. Most of the States, he noted, have their fish and game activities combined in one department, and there are many sportsmen and outdoor groups almost equally interested in mammals, birds, and fishes. In the past it has been necessary to deal with both the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries, but in the future there

will be only the one agency, with coordinated policies and programs for all wildlife and with its central source for information regarding all kinds of wildlife and wildlife problems.

Law enforcement activities were described as an example of the benefits of coordination. The larger and more widely distributed field personnel maintained by the Biological Survey to enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will make possible more effective administration and enforcement of the Federal Act protecting black bass, and personnel of the former Bureau of Fisheries will be able to assist in enforcing the laws protecting migratory birds. The consolidation of the two agencies will also make possible the development of a coordinated program relating to the various Federal laws for the protection of fisheries, aquatic mammals, and other wildlife resources of Alaska. Wildlife agents of the Alaska Game Commission may be designated to enforce the fisheries laws and regulations and those engaged primarily in the protection of fishes and aquatic mammals may be designated to enforce the provisions of the Alaska Game Law.

Other joint uses of the combined personnel and facilities of the two former bureaus are expected to make more effective such activities as the seasonal collection of market news data and other statistics relating to commercial fishes, the conduct of the annual migratory waterfowl inventory, observation of fishing conditions and needs for restocking, collection of widely representative material for study purposes, construction work at refuges and fish hatcheries, emergency uses of boats, airplanes, and automobiles, and the many studies involving both fish and other wildlife.

Great advantages were seen in the use for many purposes of areas formerly administered separately. Marine biological stations and fish production areas will be used for studies of aquatic plants useful to birds and for investigations of predatory birds and mammals in relation to fishes. Wildlife refuges will be used for fish studies and restocking and the results of such studies are expected to be of mutual advantage.

Arrangements have already been made, Secretary Ickes pointed out as one example, for taking advantage of an opportunity to increase the number of diamond-back terrapins propagated for some years by the Bureau of Fisheries. On the coastal areas where they have been liberated after hatchery propagation, the terrapins have been subject to serious depredations. Now they will be planted and protected on refuge areas that were established by the Biological Survey. The coastal refuges will also provide areas for experimental planting of clams and oysters.

Secretary Ickes said that he saw many other advantages in the President's reorganization and expected still others to develop as the work of coordination progresses. "The reorganization is consistent and logical," he said, "and it is bound to be of immense benefit to the Government, the public, and--most important of all--to our wildlife resources."

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, who will be Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, is an authority on wildlife and has had long experience in wildlife administration. Since November 15, 1935, he has been Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, the organization in which he has spent all but three of the years since he was graduated from Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, in 1912.

Leaving Marshalltown, Iowa, where he had been instructor in natural science in the high school for three years, Gabrielson, because of his interest in bird study, came to the Biological Survey on October 1, 1915. As an assistant in economic ornithology during his first years in the organization, he took a leading part in the investigation of the introduced starling.

In 1918 Gabrielson did rodent-control work in the important crop regions of North Dakota, and in 1919 he was placed in charge of all cooperative rodent control operations in Oregon. Here he had much pioneer work to do in connection with the development of the cooperative work in the State, in bringing together ranchers, stockmen, and county and State officials for joint action in the destruction of rodent pests, and in improving control methods. On July 1, 1931, he was appointed to the newly created position of regional supervisor of both predator and rodent control in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Idaho, with headquarters at Portland, Oregon.

Through his scientific interest in natural history, Gabrielson became an authority on the birds, mammals, and plants of the Northwest. He also took an active interest in game-law enforcement and in other conservation activities, and when the Survey's Division of Game Management was established in July 1934, he became its directing head in the Pacific Coast States and Nevada. In May 1935, he became consulting specialist to the Chief of the Bureau and Assistant Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research. On November 15, 1935, he succeeded J. N. Darling as Chief of the Bureau. Dr. Gabrielson is the author of numerous articles pertaining to bird and mammal life and botanical subjects.

Dr. Gabrielson was born at Sioux Rapids, Iowa, on September 27, 1889. He is married and has four children. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists'

Union and a member of the Wildlife Society, the Wilson Ornithological Club, the Cooper Ornithological Club, the American Society of Mammalogists, the Ecological Society of America, the Washington Biologists' Field Club, and the Cosmos Club.

Assistant Director Charles E. Jackson, has been associated with the Bureau of Fisheries since May 1933. At that time he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau, and he has served as Acting Commissioner since the resignation of the former commissioner in January 1939. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, he was educated there. He is a member of the District of Columbia bar, is married and has four children. In his new post, he will be responsible for the direction of fisheries research, economic conservation, regulatory work in the fisheries field and related duties. Mr. Jackson is a member of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission and the International Fisheries Commission.

Assistant Director W. C. Henderson has been in the service of the Biological Survey since 1916 when he transferred to that organization from the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of Agriculture. He had previously worked in the Forest Service. He joined the Biological Survey as Assistant Chief, and in 1927 became Associate Chief.

He was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and received his schooling in George Washington University, where he studied biology, and in the Boston University of Law. He is a member of the bar. He is married and has one child. He belongs to numerous scientific and learned societies including the American Ornithological Union, the Cooper Ornithology Club, the American Society of Mammalogists, the Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Association of Game and Fish Conservation Commissions, the Wildlife Society and others.

In his new post, Mr. Henderson will be primarily responsible for the direction of wildlife research, economic conservation, wildlife regulatory work and similar activities.